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23 September 1984

The Honorable John N. McMahon
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Subject: Address by Soviet Consul
General Anatoly G. Myshkov
at the 19 September dinner
meeting of AFIO.

Dear John,

Although I am confident that the following offers no bits that the intelligence community does not presently have, I offer them for what ever use you may find for them.

Consul General Myshkov, speaking from a prepared script for 30 minutes and then in answering questions submitted in writing by the audience (to me for screening and thence read to him), said that:

- While it was good that our respective countries would be communicating in the form of the meeting between Gromyko and Prs. Reagan, there was little hope, if any, that the talks would lead to in depth discussions regarding reduction in nuclear arms until such time as deployment of missiles was stopped by the U.S. He said that otherwise there would be no talks until the Soviet Union had deployed sufficient numbers of their missiles to insure parity, and thus security for the USSR.
- Myshkov specifically underscored the need for the Soviets to have an equal threat to the threat that the U.S. and NATO has (with the current deployment efforts). He said that the U.S. will face an eight (8) minute threat just as does the Soviet Union.
- He said that the Soviet Union will deploy missiles in Hungary, Czcheslovakia and East Germany as well as augmenting their capability in the Soviet Union. These moves are necessary to insure their security.
- He said that the Soviets will not and can not give on the point relative to the English and French holdings that the U.S. and NATO do not wish to include in the total arsenal. He said that parity means equal balance between NATO and Warsaw pact members, not an advantage to NATO.
- He described the proposal to pursue "Star Wars" weaponry as being very dangerous and a very real threat to peace.

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(Star Wars, cont.)

He said that military use of outer space is something that the Soviets fear and will not allow and that this is a topic that must be addressed separately for the safety and peace of the world.

- Myshkov said that the Soviets supported the proposal of mutual verification and would continue to do so.
- He said that there was a need for our two countries to engage in other discussions with a view to gaining agreements. He specifically cited culture, education, science, art and agriculture as subjects where both the U.S. and the Soviet Union should share and work together, in addition to the questions of outer space and nuclear parity.

The prepared text was delivered somberly and smoothly. It obviously was party line and threatening, intentionally so. In answering the submitted questions he was considerably less comfortable, almost ill at ease. He did try to leave his presentation on a positive note, citing the desire of the Soviet people for peace, just as the people of the U.S. do. He did not touch on either Soviet or U.S. space programs other than to note in strong terms the threat perceived in Moscow of the U.S. interest in such a program.

Myshkov has served in the U.S. for more than twenty years and is presently on his second tour in San Francisco. He has previously served in both Washington and New York. In conversations with him, both in making the final arrangements with him at the Soviet consulate and during and after dinner he impresses as very capable, professional and one of better products that their system has turned loose abroad. His wife, who also attended, is equally fluent in English as he is, gregarious and quite charming.

We first invited him last May with him responding that the date would have to be deferred until he returned from home leave. That he had Dobrynin's and Moscow's permission is not proveable, but believed just as is it likely that he has been very successful during his years in the states, otherwise he would not be here.

Gromyko will certainly have more to say to both Pres. Reagan and Mr. Mondale, but the hard line Myshkov presented is perhaps another indicator of what Gromyko will give, especially, I suspect, to the candidate of the Democrats.

I would have written this earlier, but left for Nevada early Thursday A.M., and returning last night.

Warm regards,

Roger